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Union Engineering Building

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Introductory Statement

A meeting of the Presidents, or their representatives, of the following organizations, namely : American Society of Civil Engineers, American Institute of Mining Engineers, American Society of Mechanical Engineers, American Institute of Electrical Engineers and the Engineers Club, was held at the Engineers Club, 374 Fifth Avenue, New York City, April 30, 1903, to receive from a committee, to whom certain preliminary arrangements had been entrusted, a communication from Mr. Andrew Carnegie addressed to the several societies and the club proposing to erect a Union Engineers Building.

The committee also presented the correspondence in detail relative to the matter and proposed a general method of procedure. The matter was freely considered and some modifications were made in the tentative plans proposed.

It was directed that the correspondence be printed and sent to members of the Boards of Directors of the several organizations and that these Boards be requested to hold a joint meeting at the House of the American Society of Civil Engineers, 220 West 57th St., Thursday evening, May 7th, at 8:30.

The Following Letter Was Presented To The First "Semi-Official" Meeting Held at the Engineers' Club on The Afternoon of February 11, 1903.

New York, February 11, 1903.

Mr. John Thomson,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Sir:—

This letter is written in compliance with a suggestion made at our conference last evening relative to an engineering building.

Mr. Andrew Carnegie sent a message yesterday to Mr. Calvin W. Rice, requesting that he and Mr. Charles F. Scott call upon him at 4 o'clock. At the interview Mr. Carnegie stated that he had enjoyed the Annual Dinner of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers the evening before in celebration of the founding of its library. He said that he had been interested in what had been said about the work of electrical and other engineers, and also in the suggestion of a common building for the various societies. He asked many questions concerning the status, the building and the income of the several organizations. We spoke of the present project of the Engineers Club for a building on 40th Street.

Mr. Carnegie asked what plans, or definite suggestions, we had in mind. We replied that so far the scheme of an Engineering Building had been discussed by individuals, but that no official or concerted action had been taken. We could simply outline a policy—not a specific plan. We said that our ideas would be met by an adequate building on 40th street to accommodate the National Engineering Societies, to provide headquarters and meeting places for other engineering bodies and to provide for the Engineers Club. Each body should have such individual rooms as would meet its requirements, and there should be suitable assembly halls and the like, to be used in common. The placing of the technical libraries of the several societies in one building, near the new public library, appealed to Mr. Carnegie.

He wanted us to ascertain what the land would cost; but, later, when we had indicated about what the societies are paying in rent, and the value of the property held by some of them, he said: "Why, you are able to support a building if you had one"; and a little later, he said: "Why, if you can provide the ground I will put up the building."

Mr. Carnegie asked that we take up the matter confidentially with others interested, and that we call again with a few other gentlemen as soon as we have a plan to submit.

We believe that we present Mr. Carnegie's views correctly when we say that if we can assure him that the engineering bodies will cooperate, and that the land can be provided, and if we present a plan of procedure involving a building adequate but not extravagant, he will be ready to contribute the lump sum necessary for the Building.

He enjoined strict secrecy upon us and the friends with whom we should discuss the matter confidentially.

We came to you at once on account of your relation to several of the engineering bodies, and also to the recent founding of the John Fritz Medal, in which several of the Societies have cooperated.

We express our appreciation of your interest by suggesting a meeting of several members of the various bodies at the Engineers Club. We will be pleased if you will take the lead in presenting the matter.

Mr. Carnegie goes South on the 18th instant for a short trip. We ask again that Mr. Carnegie's injunctions as to secrecy be impressed upon those who attend the meeting this afternoon.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) Chas. F. Scott.

(Signed) Calvin W. Rice.

Note.—The result of the meeting at which the foregoing letter was discussed is set forth in Mr. Scott's letter, herein, of April 25th.

Meeting of the Presidents to Secure Official Action of the Societies and the Club.

New York, Apr. 25, 1903

To the Presidents of the National Engineering Societies and The Engineers Club—

Dear Sir :

Mr. Andrew Carnegie has taken an active interest in the establishing of a Union Engineering Building for the accommodation of the four general National engineering societies ; namely, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Institute of Mining Engineers, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, and the Engineers Club of New York City; and, in addition, to provide headquarters and meeting places for other engineering bodies.

The preliminary history of the matter is set forth in the accompanying copy of a letter which we presented to Mr. John Thomson on February 11th. The meeting referred to in the latter part of the letter was held at The Engineers' Club on the afternoon of the same day at which were present ; Alfred Noble, President, Charles Warren Hunt, Secretary, A. S. C. E.; Charles Kirschhoff, Past President, A. I. M. E.; Professor F. R. Hutton, Secretary, Major W. H. Wiley, Treasurer, A. S. M. E.; Chas. F. Scott, President and Calvin W. Rice, Director, A. I. E. E.; John C. Kafer, President John Thomson, Past President, and Wm. A. Redding, Esq., Chairman of the House Committee, The Engineers Club, and Mr. John Fritz.

The general sentiment of the meeting was that the plan was feasible and the matter was placed in the hands of a committee consisting principally of gentlemen connected with the Engineers' Realty Company, an organization which has in hand the building enterprise of the Engineers' Club.

Pursuant to this plan, the following gentlemen had a conference with Mr. Carnegie on February 14th, viz: Messrs. Fritz, Thomson, Kafer, Redding, Scott and Rice. The project was freely discussed with Mr. Carnegie who addressed a letter (see p. 6) to the four Engineering Societies and The Engineers' Club expressing his readiness to give the funds for the erection of a building provided the several societies could make certain arrangements with respect to the necessary land. He urged that the matter be kept quiet until options had been secured on the land. Mr. Kafer was requested to proceed to secure options on certain city lots, which he has done.

The gentlemen to whom Mr. Carnegie's letter was entrusted are therefore in position to present the letter to the several societies to whom it is addressed. For this purpose they invite the Presidents of the several societies to meet them at dinner at the Engineers' Club, 374—5th Ave., N. Y. City on Thursday, April 30th at 6.30 o'clock. If you find it impossible to be present, please appoint some one to represent your society. It is urged that a knowledge of these matters should not extend beyond the gentlemen who are to be present.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) CHARLES F. SCOTT

For the Committee.

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

2 East 91st Street,
New York.
Feb. 14, 1903.

Gentlemen of American Society Civil Engineers, American Society Mechanical Engineers, American Institute Mining Engineers, American Institute Electrical Engineers and The Engineers' Club:

It will give me great pleasure to give, say, one million dollars to erect a Suitable Union Building for you all, as the same may be needed.

With best wishes,
Truly yours,
(Signed) Andrew Carnegie.

Hoboken, N. J., April 13, 1903.

Dear Mr. Kafer:

I have yours of the 11th instant and in reply would say that Mr. Carnegie has authorized me to pay for options on property for new Engineering Building, also to furnish the funds for the purchase of property to be used for site for the building. I am, therefore, in position to pay the amount required to hold the property referred to in your letter, and to pay for the lots if they be secured.

Yours very truly,
(Signed) R. A. Franks.

To Mr. John C. Kafer,
President,
The Engineer's Club,
374 Fifth Avenue,
New York.

Official Presentation of the Project.

As requested in Mr. Scott's letter of the 25th, the following named gentlemen met and dined together at the Engineers' Club on the evening of April 30th:

Mr. John Fritz.
Mr. John C. Kafer.
Mr. Alfred Noble.
Mr. James M. Dodge.
Mr. Charles F. Scott.
Mr. Geo. E. Weed.
Mr. B. B. Lawrence.
Mr. E. E. Olcott.
Mr. Calvin W. Rice.
Mr. T. C. Martin.
Mr. Wm. A. Redding.
Mr. John Thomson.

The proceedings were formally opened by Mr. Redding, who, in introducing Mr. Scott to present a statement on behalf of the committee, made particular mention of the fact that the credit for bringing about this most desirable result was essentially and particularly due to Mr. Martin, Mr. Rice and Mr. Scott. And it was also pointed out that not only had these gentlemen distinctly disclaimed any right of precedence for the Electrical society but the project, in its present broad gauge presentation, was due to their suggestion, at their first interview with Mr. Carnegie, which immediately secured his hearty approval.

Statement on Behalf of the Committee.

GENTLEMEN:—

You have been invited to this meeting in order that there may be formally transmitted to the representatives of the several Societies interested, the proposition of Mr. Andrew Carnegie to erect a Union Engi-

neering Building, and to receive the report that options on certain lots have been acquired, as was advised by Mr. Carnegie before a general statement of the plans should be announced.

The history of the events which culminate in this meeting have been stated in the letter inviting you to be present this evening. The reasons which prompted Mr. Carnegie to make his generous contribution may be judged from some of his remarks in an address before one of the Societies on the evening prior to his taking up the matter with representatives of that Society. Mr. Carnegie said :

> "I have often taken occasion to say—and I have known both lands well—that the American men, this body of electrical engineers for instance, are the most co-operative men, I believe, that exist to-day. * * * I think there is a harmonizing feature about them which counts for everything in the progress of any great movement, political, social or scientific. And it is institutions like this of the Electrical Engineers which do so much : you cannot over-estimate the influence such organizations exert."

The Committee to whom Mr. Carnegie intrusted the first steps in the present undertaking, have appreciated the responsibility which has rested upon them, and have been imbued with the extent and the far-reaching importance of their work. Never has there been such a handsome recognition of the standing and worth of the engineering profession as that which is accorded in this gift; and never has such an opportunity been afforded for engineers to elevate the dignity of their profession and the standard of their work. And never, it may be added, has there been such a vast field of engineering opportunity as now lies before the American engineer. Our material prosperity and industrial pre-eminence are the testimonials of what American engineering has accomplished. Mr. Carnegie's gift to

the National Engineering Societies marks the beginning of a new era in American engineering.

The value of this gift to the engineering profession has been eloquently set forth in the accompanying statement, page 13, prepared, at the request of the Committee, by the venerable man whom the four Engineering Societies have so recently honored in the founding of a medal bearing his name—Mr. John Fritz.

Location. The site selected for the Union Engineering Building, for the Engineers' Club and the National Societies on 40th and 39th streets, between 5th and 6th Avenues, is the ideal spot in America for such a building. However widely the membership and the interests of a society may be scattered, New York City must be recognized as the engineering center of the country. The location selected is in the very heart of the coming business center of New York. In the past, the means of travel from Brooklyn on the one hand, and from the west on the other hand have centered by bridge and by ferry at the lower extremity of Manhattan Island; hence the congestion of business in that section. In common with the general northward movement the transportation facilities are changing. The new Pennsylvania Terminal with tunnels to Brooklyn and to the west, the new station of the New York Central System, the facilities afforded by the Rapid Transit Subway all point to the vicinity of 40th Street as the coming transportation and business centre of the metropolis. It is also the centre of the hotel district.

Other Societies. The four general Engineering Societies named by Mr. Carnegie are but a part of the engineering societies which are to be benefitted by a Union Engineering Building. There are numerous societies, many of them strong and vigorous, whose membership contains many of the members of the general Societies, but whose fields of activity are specialized in their scope. The work of these societies is of a high order, and taken in the aggregate it is a most important part of American engineering. Definite

permanent headquarters and accommodations in the same building with those of other societies will be advantageous to the societies themselves, and will be of great convenience to their members.

Functions of a Building. Some of the uses and advantages of a Union Engineering Building may be indicated in a general way without entering upon details.

A large assembly hall will be available for lectures and for the holding of general conventions of engineering societies.

A number of smaller halls will accommodate smaller audiences and will be suitable for monthly meetings of societies and for sectional or supplemental meetings at the time of conventions.

The libraries of the several engineering societies placed in adjacent alcoves or rooms will constitute a magnificent engineering library. Economies will be effected as many books need not be duplicated which would be necessary if the libraries were separate, and there may be reduced cost for administration. The several libraries may have a common index. Moreover, the Union Engineering Library will be adjacent to the new building of the New York Public Library, 40th and 42nd Sts.

Rooms may be available for reading and writing. The building itself may become a gallery of portraits of eminent engineers and illustrations of engineering works.

Accommodations for the administrative offices of the several engineering societies may be arranged to suit their various needs. Facilities for the officers, boards of direction, committees, as well as for the mailing, and possibly the printing, of transactions may be afforded.

Facilities may be arranged for the serving of luncheons or dinners at the time of conventions or meetings and for the holding of formal dinners and banquets. A common cuisine may serve the Engineers' Club and the engineering societies.

Plan of Organization. A plan of organization and a general statement of the legal phases of the situation, are set forth in the accompanying statement, page 17, by William A. Redding, Esq., Chairman of the House Committee of the Engineers' Club :—

In Conclusion. Mr. Fritz's statement refers to some early attempts at co-operation between the engineering societies. The transactions of the various societies as well as addresses by engineers and communications in the technical press show that there has been a growing sentiment among engineers looking to harmonious relations which should be mutually beneficial. Some of the ideas have contemplated an actual merger of the various societies on the more recently developed lines of commercial consolidations ; the resulting organization to be operated in effect as a unit. In view of recent engineering developments it is probably just as well that such a plan was not carried out. At other times plans have been proposed, most excellent in themselves, based upon high ideals, but they came to nothing as they found no material support. The construction of the present house of the American Society of Civil Engineers has acted as a healthy stimulus to others, by demonstrating the advantages and indicating the possibilities of a camping together, or focussing, of forces in the future. Again, the signal success of the Engineers' Club in bringing together professional men of various specialties, and the splendid feeling which has been developed, world-wide, among engineers and industrial captains in the founding of The John Fritz Medal, have been potent factors in the development of a condition which seems to make the time ripe to meet the present opportunity.

In this connection a remark made by Mr. Geo. S. Morison, Past President of the Am. Soc. C. E., at the opening of the new house of the Am. Soc. C. E., may be appropriately quoted: "It is right, however, for us to recognize that though we consider ourselves a great profession, *our greatness must be in the future rather than in the past.*" And, on

the same occasion, in his dedicational address, the Hon. Joseph H. Choate, said: "Now, how did they do all this? How did these great engineers achieve these marvelous triumphs? Well, I think it was only—to borrow a phrase of Emerson's—by hitching their wagon to a star. * * * The debt these civil engineers owe is to follow in the footsteps of those great men whom they all unite in honoring and revering."

The idea of Mr. Carnegie is significant in its very breadth. He has not imposed restrictions nor introduced details. *In a single sentence he has presented a great opportunity, and places confidence in engineers that they will adequately meet it.* The present is the time to expand; to construct a magnificent ideal; to picture what should be done, and to devise how it may be accomplished. Let us first develop our grand ideal. There are plans to be arranged and details, perhaps perplexing, are to be worked out. Engineers are now called to work out for themselves a problem similar to those which they are continually solving for others.

To us is committed a great trust on behalf of American Engineering. The real question to be decided is not whether we will accept it, but it is whether we can take the responsibility of refusing to administer it.

Prepared by the direction and under the co-operation of the Committee: Messrs Fritz, Thomson, Kafer, Redding, Rice and Scott.

(Signed) CHAS F SCOTT

Views of Mr. John Fritz.

Bethlehem, Pa., April 29th, 1903.

My dear Mr. Scott: Yours of the 25th asking for a statement, on general lines, expressing my views regarding the proposed project of housing the Civil, Mining, Mechanical and Electrical Engineers, all in one building, is at hand. This, for me, is a somewhat difficult task, as I am unaccustomed to either speaking or writing, but I will do the best I can in my own way, recognizing that bad grammar is much more humiliating and less expensive than bad engineering.

The object of our meeting to-night is not new to me, but it is most interesting; for some years before the death of our lamented Holley, he and I had many talks on the subject that has called us together.

At that time, the most we hoped to accomplish was to devise some means that would bring the engineering societies in closer touch with each other. We had a scheme which we thought was practicable, and would at least in a measure accomplish the purpose; but there were difficulties in the way and the project was quietly laid aside.

About that time, too, Mr. Andrew Carnegie was laying the foundation for his stupendous fortune, and now in his great generosity, and in recognition of the merit of the engineer, and mindful of the assistance he received from them during his most remarkably successful career, he has so nobly offered to give the money to secure the lots and erect a building that will accommodate the four great engineering societies, and the Engineers' Club, separately; which will be a monument to the engineering profession and will let the world know that there is one man who knows and acknowledges their work and worth.

When Mr. Holley and I talked over some plans to bring the engineers closer together, the wildest flight of our imagination could not have conceived the idea of such a magnificent gift as is now presented to us, for

the fulfillment of the object that was then so near our hearts.

There is something so beautiful and encouraging to the young men to know that the donor was at that time *one of us*, the same as the young men of to-day, who was struggling for recognition amongst the business men of the country, the same as you are for place in the line of your profession. And I beg to say that, in my humble opinion, the occupation of the engineer is one of the grandest, most useful and far reaching that falls to the lot of man to pursue ; and I know of no calling that requires more thoughtful and careful study than that which inspires and prevades the profession ; nor if there any society or class of people that the world is so much indebted to as the engineer.

I shall now treat them as *one family* and recognize the beneficence of their united efforts. The value of their genius and influence and what they have accomplished cannot be estimated or restricted to any one country. They are only bound by the law of progress ; which means that each triumph of their genius inspires them to higher and grander accomplishments. There seems to be no finality to their progress, unless the nations of the earth lapse into barbarity. Look at the vast system of railroads that space the continent, that has reduced the time of travelling from ocean to ocean to nearly the same number of days as formerly required months. They have carried civilization and commerce throughout the great wild west, converting it into farms now occupied by an industrious, intelligent and happy people. Then, again, think of the navy we have built and are building ; also think of the most remarkable performance of the battleship " Oregon ", sailing from Puget Sound, on the North Pacific coast, around Cape Horn to Santiago, and then forthwith going into action without any repairs of any kind : A feat unparalleled in the history of battleships. It was the navy of *our* construction, which we are all so proud of, and justly so, that made it possible for us to achieve the victory over the Span-

iards in Cuba; which placed our country in the front rank of the great nations of the world. I now ask who built our great system of railroads, who designed and built the ships of our honored navy, and thousands of other works of merit that could be mentioned? The answer is *the engineer.* But no one Society of Engineers can claim that its members did it all; *for it has all been accomplished by their united efforts.* I most ardently hope they may still become more closely associated, both on social and on engineering lines.

The societies are so interdependent, and overlap each other to such an extent, that to me it is most surprisingly strange that the efforts which have been made before this time to bring them in closer contact with each other, has not been successful.

It has been my fortune to have good friends in the various societies; and we were, at all times, ready and willing and happy to exchange ideas with each other; and I am absolutely certain that we all profited by it, and the country at large received the benefit.

When I first went to work in the rolling mill and would go near the roll turner, he would take up his templates and put them in his pocket. I am happy to say that the people are becoming more tolerant; that the conditions of the country have greatly changed and we must be prepared to meet them. What is now wanted is well-informed, liberal, broad-minded and many-sided men; and I am a firm believer, all other things being equal, that every man should know something of everything and everything of something.

I could give you instance after instance from my own experience, which would prove the correctness of the foregoing views.

Now, the only way that I can see to obtain this knowledge is to get close together. By pursuing this method, all parties will be benefited and they will obtain certain practical knowledge and advantages that cannot be otherwise obtained. And I know of no plan

by which this can be so well accomplished as that proposed, where all the specialists can conveniently meet each other and at the same time have access, under proper rules, to the various libraries. This would be the college of colleges.

The Electrical Institute, though the youngest, has great possibilities before it, and may be the means through which the older societies can be brought together. The members of this society are young and pliable; who are dealing with an element that requires them to be ever on the elert, and who well know the value of cumulative knowledge.

As there has been nothing said regarding the Marine and Naval engineers, I have made no specific allusion to them; but I would like to see them all included, and also both the physical and analytical chemists.

Finally, it is the young men who will derive the greatest advantage by the adoption of the proposed plan. Should this plan fail, and were I a young man, knowing what I now do on the subject, it would be one of the objects of my life to devise some means by which the younger members of our profession could be brought into closer unity.

Sincerely hoping for complete success, I am,

Yours most truly,

(signed) JOHN FRITZ.

Letter from Mr. Wm. A. Redding Relating to the Legal Status of the Project.

POTTER BUILDING, 38 PARK ROW,

NEW YORK, May 1st, 1903.

CHARLES F. SCOTT, ESQ.,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

DEAR SIR :—

Engineers' Realty Company, a corporation organized under the laws of New York, has recently purchased the property on the south side of 40th Street about 420 feet west of five Avenue in this City, 50 feet wide by nearly 100 feet deep, as a site for a new club house for The Engineers' Club of this City.

Written options have been recently acquired* in the name of R. A. Franks, Esq., who represents Andrew Carnegie, Esq., to purchase before July 1st, 1903, five contiguous properties on the north side of 39th Street, west of Fifth Avenue in this City, which are immediately in rear of the above mentioned property on 40th Street and the aggregate width of which is 125 feet and the depth of which is nearly 100 feet. These five contiguous properties are to be purchased as a site for a suitable building to be occupied by The American Society of Civil Engineers, The American Society of Mechanical Engineers, The American Institute of Electrical Engineers and The American Institute of Mining Engineers and such other societies of engineers as shall be determined upon.

You have requested me to set forth in a letter to you my views as to how the titles to all of these properties should be held to best accomplish the objects contemplated and as to how the cost of the purchase of all of these properties should be apportioned between The Engineers' Club, The American Society of Civil Engin-

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* At a cost aggregating $50,000.

eers, The American Society of Mechanical Engineers, The American Institute of Electrical Engineers and The American Institute of Mining Engineers, and as to how the character and arrangement of the building to be erected on both sites should be determined and as to how the apportionment of the building to be erected on the site on 39th Street among the various societies of engineers should be determined, and complying with this request I now submit for consideration suggestions as follows:

As To How The Titles Should Be Held.

The Engineers' Club should purchase from Engineers' Realty Company the property on 40th Street, subject to the mortgage for $110,000, now secured thereon, and in payment therefor should give to the Engineers' Realty Company 1150 bonds of the par value of $100.00 each executed by the Club and to be payable in 20 years from the date thereof and to bear interest at the rate of four per centum per annum payable semi-annually; and the Club should have the right and option to pay off all or any of these bonds at any time before the expiration of the 20 years; and all of these bonds should be secured by a second mortgage to be given by the Club to a Trustee upon said property on 40th Street.

Engineers' Realty Company should distribute these 1150 bonds among its stockholders by giving to each stockholder one bond for each share of its capital stock owned by such stockholder; and upon the completion of such distribution of these bonds this company should be wound up and dissolved.

The American Society of Civil Engineers, The American Society of Mechanical Engineers, The American Institute of Electrical Engineers and The American Institute of Mining Engineers should purchase the five contiguous properties on 39th Street and accept a conveyance of them in fee simple to these four national societies of engineers as tenants in common, share and

share alike ; and the cost of the purchase of these five contiguous properties on 39th Street should be paid by these four national societies of engineers share and share alike.

Each of these four national societies of engineers might pay its proportion of the cost of purchase of these five contiguous properties on 39th Street in cash, or it might execute and give a bond and mortgage secured upon its interest in these properties for the payment of its proportion of the cost of purchase, to be made payable at such period of time as should be satisfactory to it and to bear interest at the rate of four per centum per annum payable semi-annually.

If these four national societies of engineers should own the whole of the site on 39th street, together with the building to be erected thereon as tenants in common, share and share alike, as above suggested, and should use such building exclusively for carrying out the purposes for which they have been organized and without deriving any profit by way of rentals or otherwise therefrom, then the whole of the site on 39th Street and the building to be erected thereon would be exempt from taxation, which would result in a saving of at least $10,000. per annum.

As to How the Character and Arrangement of the Buildings Should Be Determined.

There should be a joint committee, composed of the president and two other members of each of the organizations that shall unite in accepting the gift of $1,000,000 from Andrew Carnegie, Esq., and this joint committee should have power to determine by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of all the members thereof the character and arrangement of the buildings to be erected on the site on 39th street and on the site on 40th street ; and should also have power to obtain from competent architects plans and specifications for the erection of such buildings, and to approve by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of all the mem-

bers thereof of the plans and specifications for the erection of such buildings ; and should also have power to make and enter into such contract as shall be approved and authorized by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of all the members of such committee for the erection of such buildings.

The vesting in such joint committee of these powers would avoid great diversity of opinion and much controversy that would arise if these matters should have to be submitted to each organization for approval.

As to How the Apportionment of the Buildings Should be Determined.

The building to be erected on the site on 40th Street should of course be occupied exclusively by The Engineers' Club.

The joint committee above suggested should have power to determine by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of all the members thereof what portion of the building to be erected on the site on 39th Street should be occupied by each of the four national societies of engineers above named that shall unite in accepting the gift of $1,000,000 from Andrew Carnegie, Esq., and what portions of that building should be reserved for the occupancy by other societies of engineers that shall be permitted to locate therein.

This joint committee should also have power to determine by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of all the members thereof what societies of engineers, other than the four national societies of engineers above named, should be permitted to occupy portions of the building to be erected on the site on 39th Street.

The societies of engineers other than the four national societies of engineers above named as shall be permitted to occupy portions of the building to be erected on the site on 39th Street should not be charged any *rentals* therefor. If any rentals should be charged, the property to a partial extent would undoubtedly be liable to taxation.

All expenses incurred from time to time for the care and maintenance of that building including interest on mortgages should be paid by each society of engineers that shall occupy the building on 39th Street in the proportion that its floor space shall bear to the aggregate floor space that shall be occupied by all the societies of engineers.

The libraries of the various societies of engineers that shall occupy the building to be erected on the site on 39th Street should be contained in one large room to be provided in that building for such purpose, but the library of each society of engineers should be kept separate and independent from the libraries of the other societies of engineers, and each society of engineers should have its own attendants in charge of its library and under its exclusive control.

The Engineers' Club and all societies of engineers that shall occupy the building to be erected on the site on 39th Street should have the right to use all of the auditoriums in that building free of charge.

In order to have a desirable governing body to prescribe rules and regulations for the use of the libraries and auditoriums and particularly to fix the dates on which the auditoriums may be used by the various organizations, there should be a committee composed of three members elected annually by the Board of Trustees of the Engineers' Club and three members elected annually by the council of each of such of the four national societies of engineers as shall occupy the building to be erected on the site on 39th Street; and this committee shall have full power to prescribe rules and regulations for the use of the libraries and auditoriums and to fix the dates when the auditoriums may be used by the various organizations.

The independence and integrity of each organization should be thoroughly preserved and nothing should be done to affect or interfere with the same.

Action to Be Taken.

The Engineers' Club and the four national societies of engineers above named should vote upon suitable resolutions sufficient to bring these five organizations into this enterprise.

The form of resolutions for this purpose should be substantially as follows :—

Resolved, that (insert name of organization) shall unite with (insert the names of the other four organizations) or any of them, for the purpose of accepting the sum of $1,000,000. as a gift from Andrew Carnegie, Esq., for the purpose of erecting suitable buildings for occupancy by various societies of engineers and The Engineers' Club on the sites located for that purpose on the north side of 39th Street and south side of 40th Street west of Fifth Avenue, in the City of New York, in the State of New York.

And resolved further, that (insert name of organization) has a very high appreciation of this generous gift of Andrew Carnegie, Esq., and this additional evidence of his recognition of the engineering profession and his deep interest in the welfare of the national societies of engineers and The Engineers' Club.

And *resolved further*, that the whole of the site on the north side of 39th Street shall be purchased and owned by The American Society of Civil Engineers, The American Society of Mechanical Engineers, The American Institute of Electrical Engineers, and The American Institute of Mining Engineers, or by such of them as shall unite in accepting said gift of $1,000,000. from Andrew Carnegie, Esq., as tenants in common, share and share alike, and the cost of the purchase of the five contiguous properties for said site on the north side of 39th Street shall be paid by them share and share alike.

And *resolved further*, that the President and two other members of (insert name of organization) to be named by him shall represent (insert name of organi-

zation) on and be members of a joint committee to be composed of the President and two other members of each organization that shall unite in accepting said gift of $1,000,000. from Andrew Carnegie, Esq.

And *Resolved Further*, that the above-mentioned joint committee shall have power to determine, by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of all the members thereof, what shall be the character and arrangement of the buildings to be erected on the sites on the north side of 39th Street and the south side of 40th Street for the occupancy by the societies of engineers and The Engineers' Club; and shall also have power to obtain from competent architects plans and specifications for the erection of such buildings and to approve, by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of all the members thereof, of the plans and specifications for the erection of such buildings; and shall also have power to make and enter into such contract as shall be approved and authorized, by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of all the members of such committee, for the erection of such buildings; and shall also have power to determine what societies of engineers, other than the four national societies of engineers above named, shall be permitted to locate in the building to be erected on the site on the north side of 39th Street; and it shall also have power to determine, by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of all the members thereof, what portion of the building to be erected on the site on 39th Street shall be occupied by each of the four national societies of engineers above named that shall unite in accepting said gift of $1,000,000. from Andrew Carnegie, Esq., and what portions of that building shall be reserved for the occupancy by other societies of engineers that shall be permitted to locate therein.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) W. A. Redding.

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